



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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Local Health Department Medical Directors
Communicable Disease Program Directors
MDSS Administrators

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is to update you on recent changes to the CDC acute hepatitis C case definition and to provide you with a new hepatitis C reporting flowchart that reflects the new case definition. The new case definition is as follows:

Hepatitis C, acute (2007)

Clinical case definition

An acute illness with:

- 1) a discrete onset of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g., anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting), **AND**
- 2) either a) jaundice, or b) serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels >400 IU/L.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

One or more of the following criteria:

- 1) Antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular assay as defined by CDC. (URL for the signal to cut-off ratios: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/sc_ratios.htm), **OR**
- 2) Hepatitis C Virus Recombinant Immunoblot Assay (HCV RIBA) positive, **OR**
- 3) Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive

AND, meets the following two criteria:

- 1) IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) negative, **AND**
- 2) IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) negative

Case classification

Confirmed: a case that meets the clinical case definition, is laboratory confirmed, and is not known to have chronic hepatitis C.

The new case definition is effective immediately and should be used for all 2007 acute hepatitis C cases. We would appreciate it if you would review all acute hepatitis C cases already reported in 2007 and make sure they continue to meet the case definition. To date there have been 39 cases of acute hepatitis C reported in Michigan in 2007. Thank you all for your efforts to improve hepatitis C surveillance.

As a reminder, MDCH has hepatitis C fact sheets available. Copies of these fact sheets were mailed out in December and also distributed at the MDCH Communicable Disease Conference. If you would like copies of the fact sheet or have any questions regarding hepatitis C please contact Kim Kirkey, Hepatitis C Coordinator, at (517) 335-8165 or KirkeyK@michigan.gov or Lori Stegmier, Viral Hepatitis Planning Coordinator at (517) 335-8165 or StegmierL@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

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